

At 11:30 a.m., on March 6, 1955, ground was broken for the construction of Washington Hospital. During this same month, 14 civic-minded women in the community came together to plan a volunteer organization that would work in and for the hospital.

As a result of their commitment, the Washington Hospital Service League became a reality in 1956; the hospital opened on November 24, 1958. The Service League's goal was—and still is—to support the hospital by purchasing much needed equipment and to assist patients, visitors and staff.

Over the years, the Service League has raised more than \$1.79 million for equipment in almost every department at Washington Hospital, enabling community members to obtain state-of-the-art health care in their own community. Seed money donated by the Service League helped bring to fruition Washington Hospital Healthcare Foundation, Washington-Stanford Radiation Oncology Center and the Community Health Resource Library.

One of the Service League's activities that has continued to change the lives of so many in the community was the establishment of a scholarship program in 1961. Since the first nursing scholarship in the amount of \$150 was awarded to a nursing student at Highland Hospital, the volunteers have given more than \$150,000 to students seeking a career in health care.

The Service League volunteers also bring a human touch—freely offering a cheerful smile, a friendly attitude and thousands of hours of service to the hospital's patients, visitors and staff.

I join in congratulating all the volunteers who have contributed to the success of the Washington Hospital Service League over the past 50 years, and the present-day volunteers who continue to make a positive difference by giving back to the community.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE  
ROPPE CORPORATION ON THE  
OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 4, 2005*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to a special company in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. This year, the Roppe Corporation of Fostoria, OH, will celebrate 50 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Speaker, the Roppe Corporation is one of the nation's leading suppliers of rubber and vinyl flooring products and accessories. The Roppe Rubber Corporation was founded in 1955, by Thony Roppe and production began in 1956. With only seven employees, the Roppe Rubber Corporation focused exclusively on rubber products.

Through the expansion of its trucking fleet and an increased customer base, Roppe has grown and flourished since its beginning. Due to the expansion of products and services that Roppe Rubber offered, it officially changed its name, in 1990, to the Roppe Corporation.

In 1993, the Miller family purchased the Roppe Corporation where Donald Miller continues to serve as chairman of the board, nearly 47 years after beginning his service at

Roppe. With expanded facilities and dedicated leadership, the Roppe Corporation has become a premier employer in the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio. By maintaining its factory in Fostoria, OH, Roppe has become a permanent fixture in the community.

Today, Roppe has become the world's largest rubber wall base manufacturer. Roppe has over 45 distributors with 105 locations in the United States and exports products worldwide. The Roppe Corporation has grown in annual sales to \$60,000,000 and now owns ATECO, Tri County Broadcasting, Seneca Millwork, Custom Corner, The Fostoria Focus, and Flexco.

Mr. Speaker, the real success of the Roppe Corporation comes not only from its products, but from its people. The employees of the Roppe Corporation provide customers with the service and dependability that are expected of a first-class company. Beyond the walls of Roppe, its employees are model citizens by providing for and leading their community. In all but 1 of the past 20 years, Roppe employees were the highest per capita givers to the Fostoria United Way campaign. Each year, we can count on the employees of Roppe to give of their time and their means to the community of Fostoria, OH.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the employees and the legacy of the Roppe Corporation. As all who benefit from this fine company gather to celebrate its 50th anniversary of service, I am confident that the good people of Fostoria, OH, will continue the successes of the Roppe Corporation into the future.

HONORING DR. JIM KING OF WVXU  
IN CINCINNATI UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 4, 2005*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jim King, who is Director of Broadcasting and General Manager of WVXU, Xavier University's public radio station in Cincinnati. He retired December 31, 2004 after 28 years of dedicated service to our community, and will return to a full time Xavier faculty position.

A native of Cheboygan, MI, Jim had an early interest in music. He began his interest in broadcasting while still a youngster with his own "pirate" radio station, and even then, he knew he wanted a career in radio. Later, he gained his first full time job in radio as a high school sophomore. At Western Michigan University, Jim earned a B.A. in English Literature and an M.A. in English Literature and Ancient History. Happily, he also met his wife of 37 years, Kathy, there. In 1969, Jim and Kathy moved to Ann Arbor and in 1973, Dr. King earned a Ph.D in Radio, TV and Film from the University of Michigan.

In 1976, Jim joined Xavier University as its full time professional manager of WVXU, which was then a small 10 watt FM station. Jim also serves as Professor of Communication Arts at Xavier.

Over the years, WVXU has increased its power several times, and today, the station is 26,000 watts. Under Jim's visionary leader-

ship, the station became a member of a regional network of seven stations in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. WVXU is now housed in a 12,000 square foot broadcasting complex on the Xavier University campus, employs 25 radio professionals, and has won almost every honor in broadcasting, including the George Foster Peabody Award, the industry's most prestigious award.

Simply put, Jim has improved the quality of life for all of us in the community by treating us to WVXU's mix of vintage radio shows; award-winning news programs; financial information; and a beloved variety of music.

All of us congratulate Jim on his retirement and wish him luck in the new challenges to come.

HONORING JOSEPH HILLS AS VIRGINIA'S  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 4, 2005*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Hills, Virginia's 2005 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Hills, a social studies teacher at Lake Braddock Secondary School, was named Virginia's 2005 Teacher of the Year and will represent Virginia in the National Teacher of the Year program. He was also awarded Fairfax County Public Schools 2004 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Hills received a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education from Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, and a Master of Arts degree in Education from the College of St. Thomas, Minnesota. He began his career with Fairfax County Public Schools in 1960 as a history teacher at Fairfax High School. He then moved to Marshall High School and later to Langley High School, where he worked as a teacher and social studies department chair. In 1973, Mr. Hills came to Lake Braddock Secondary School where he still serves.

He is a member of numerous education associations including the National Council of Social Studies, the Virginia Council of Social Studies, and is active in various Parent Teacher Associations. Mr. Hills has received the Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award, as well as outstanding teacher awards from the University of Chicago and Smith College.

Colleagues describe Mr. Hills as "the embodiment of a dedicated teacher who is energized by his students and at the same time energizes those in his classroom." Former students praise Mr. Hills for making history come alive by telling stories and inspiring them to become teachers or earn graduate degrees in history. He is known for his use of the Socratic Method, spurring students to "think deeply and differently."

Our students are our number one resource. Mr. Hills has dedicated his life to ensuring that they are given the opportunity to achieve success. Over the past 44 years, he has made a lasting impact on thousands of students.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Joseph Hills and congratulating him on this distinguished achievement.